

ABSTRACT

Method and apparatus for filling (printing) cells of a mask with solder paste. A first (flood) blade is disposed a distance above a front surface of the mask, moves a glob of solder paste across the surface of the mask. The first blade is followed by a second (cleaning) blade which is in contact with the surface of the mask and which advances across the surface of the mask to remove residual solder paste from the surface of the mask. The distance between the first blade and the mask is on the order of a few (2-5) times the average particle size in the solder paste. The first blade may be plastic. The second blade is preferably non-compliant, such as metal. Profiles for the two blades are disclosed. A method printing multiple masks with multiple sets of blades is disclosed.